Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Claims 3-5, 7, 9, 15 and 17 are amended.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method for reducing the somatic cell count in milk, comprising administering to a mammal an effective amount of a composition comprising a toxin.

2. (Original) A method for increasing the quality of milk produced by mammals, comprising administering to a mammal an effective amount of a composition comprising a toxin.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the mammal has a somatic cell count of greater than 257,000 per ml of milk before administration of the toxin.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the mammal is *Bos taurus*.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the toxin is a staphylococcal toxin or a streptococcal toxin

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the streptococcal toxin is streptococcal pyrogenic exotoxin A or streptococcal superantigen.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the toxin is a type A, B, C, D, E, G, or H staphylococcal enterotoxin.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the toxin is staphylococcal enterotoxin C (SEC).

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the toxin is a mutant toxin.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the toxin is mutant staphylococcal enterotoxin C1-12 (SEC1-12) (SEQ ID NO: 17).

11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the mutant toxin has reduced lethality, reduced emetic properties, or reduced pyrogenicity as compared with the wild-type toxin.

12. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the toxin has a modified disulfide loop region.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein at least 40% of the amino acid residues within the disulfide loop region are deleted.

14. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the toxin is an antigenic portion of a staphylococcal enterotoxin.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein about 0.1 mg to about 10.0 mg of the composition is administered.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein about 4.0 mg of the composition is administered.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein a plurality of doses of a composition comprising a toxin is administered.